

Appl. No. 09/996,138  
Amtd. dated Jan. 4, 2005  
Reply to Office action of Oct. 4, 2004  
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**REMARKS**

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 16-18 and 36-38 have been amended and claims 1-15, 19-35 and 39, 40 and 42-57 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 41 has been allowed. Claims 16-18, 36-38 and 41 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 16-18 and 36-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 16-18 have been amended to include the limitations of base claim 1, claims 36-38 have been amended to include the limitations of base claim 21, and claims 1-15, 19-35 and 39, 40 and 42-57 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 41 is allowed.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

FORREST C.M. PAPE ET AL.

January 4, 2005  
Date

  
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